

# Tip Sheet

## Are Students Engaged or Merely Entertained?

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Most of us agree that students need to be engaged in order to learn at optimal levels; but, it is often difficult to tell whether an activity will engage them rather than just entertain them. Use the guide below to help you distinguish between engagement and entertainment:

Students are ENGAGED if....	Students are ENTERTAINED if...
They are actively involved in learning	They are simply participating in an activity
They are acquiring new knowledge and skills as a result of the activity	Any knowledge and skills they acquire is directly related to the activity itself but is not or cannot be transferred to the overall learning objectives of the lesson
They are using knowledge they already have to acquire new knowledge and skills	They may use some knowledge they have already but doing so does not lead to the acquisition of new knowledge
They are adjusting the activity to make it fit their needs	They are trying to conform to the activity in order to get it "right"
They are asking questions and using the answers to increase their own understanding	They are asking questions related to how they can complete the activity itself
They are integrating what they are learning with what they know already	They are not connecting what they are doing to what they are supposed to be learning or have learned already
They are accessing other resources to increase their understanding	They are only using the resources provided
They are interested in what they are learning	They are excited by what they are doing
They make connections between what they are learning and their own lives	They are completing the activity without connecting it to their own lives
They are curious about what they are learning and want to learn more	They enjoy the activity and want to do it again